



Homeland
Security

CFATS Quarterly

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards

TIERING BY THE NUMBERS:

5%

OF THE CURRENTLY-
UNTIERED POPULATION
EXPECTED TO BECOME
TIERED

5%

OF THE CURRENTLY-
TIERED POPULATION
EXPECTED TO BECOME
UNTIERED

51%

OF THE CURRENTLY-
TIERED POPULATION
WILL SEE A CHANGE
IN TIER

39%

OF FACILITIES WILL
SEE NO CHANGE

9,000

UPDATED TOP-
SCREENS HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED

27,000

FACILITIES HAVE
REPORTED
HOLDINGS OF COI

Tiering Update

On April 4, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began issuing facility tiering notifications based on the results of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) enhanced risk-tiering methodology.

DHS launched the enhanced methodology last September, after three years of work by risk experts. The enhanced methodology responds to recommendations made in a peer review of the original methodology by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute (HSSAI) and incorporates legislative mandates from the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Acts of 2014.

It was developed in coordination with industry and government partners, reviewed by an HSSAI expert panel, and independently verified and validated by Sandia National Laboratories.

To date, approximately 12,000 updated Top-Screens have been received from the 27,000 facilities that previously reported holdings of chemicals of interest (COI) at or above the screening threshold quantity.

DHS has sent out over 10,000 tiering determination letters to facilities that have submitted new Top-Screens. Tiering letters are being prioritized based on when DHS received the facility Top-Screen, upcoming compliance inspection schedules, and to take into account workload for submitters that have a high number of covered facilities with changes.

Over the next 18 months we will continue to notify facilities of the requirement to submit new Top-Screens and issue tiering decisions on a rolling basis.

Once facilities receive a tiering determination letter based on the enhanced risk-assessment methodology, their next steps depend on their results.

For detailed information and guidance on such results, see “I’ve Received a Tiering Letter, Now What?” on the next page.

Two public webinars were held to discuss tiering trends and to respond to questions from facilities. A link to the slides from these webinars can be found on the [Knowledge Center](#).

If you have additional questions about the webinars, please contact CFATS@hq.dhs.gov

To gain access to your CSAT Account or for other CSAT questions, contact the CFATS Help Desk at 866-323-2957 or csat@hq.dhs.gov

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I've Received a Tiering Letter, Now What?

As facilities receive tiering letters based on the enhanced risk-assessment methodology, their next steps will depend on their results.

Facilities new to the CFATS program will be required to submit security plans. If a current facility receives a revised tiering assessment, it does not necessarily mean that it will be required to submit a Site Security Plan (SSP)/Alternative Security Program (ASP).

Facilities should review their high-risk determination letter along with their approved SSP/ASP to determine whether it accounts for security measures associated with all the chemicals of interest (COI), specific security issues (Theft/Diversion, Release, or Sabotage), and tiers in the letter. If not, an SSP/ASP update may be required.

Examples of situations in which a facility will need to update its SSP may include:

- Facilities that add a newly tiered COI, which is located in a new asset area not currently addressed in the SSP/ASP
- Facilities that increase in tier and do not have sufficient security measures to account for the higher tier
- Facilities with an added security concern from a current COI that lacks sufficient security measures to account for the new security concern

For example, if a facility possesses chlorine tiered for “theft/diversion” but now must also account for chlorine as a “release” concern, the existing SSP/ASP would need

to be revised to include security measures to address risks associated with release COI.

Do I need to make SSP updates?

Some facilities may not need to make SSP edits after receiving a revised tiering determination, but may wait until their next required SSP edit to make those changes. These situations may include:

- Facilities that have removed a tiered or untiered COI
- Facilities that have added tiered COI that is located within a current asset covered in their SSP/ASP, which also has security measures appropriate for that COI's tier and security concern.
- Facilities that add a new security concern to a current COI or asset with appropriate security measures to address the new security concern.

For example, a facility currently has an asset that stores a COI at a Tier 1 level for “theft/diversion” in its approved SSP. Upon receiving their tiering letter, a new COI is added and is determined to be Tier 1 for “release.” If the new COI is stored within the same asset that already has appropriate security measures for both security concerns, the facility will not need to edit its SSP.

DHS will assess facilities on a case-by-case basis to ensure security measures are appropriate to their level of risk. You may reach out to your Chemical Security Inspector or Compliance Case Manager if you are unsure what specific steps to take.

Resources

Outreach: DHS outreach for the CFATS program is a continuous effort to provide information to stakeholders on the program. To request a CFATS presentation or a Compliance Assistance Visit, submit a request through, www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-chemical-security, or by emailing DHS at CFATS@hq.dhs.gov.

CFATS Help Desk: The CFATS Help Desk is ready to assist in answering questions about the CFATS program. Hours of Operation are 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (EST), Monday through Friday. The CFATS Help Desk toll-free number is 1-866-323-2957. The CFATS Help Desk email address is CSAT@hq.dhs.gov.

Website: For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI) training, and other useful CFATS-related information, please visit www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity.

Inspectors: Chemical Security Inspectors are located across the country, and are available provide compliance assistance to facilities. Visit CFATS@hq.dhs.gov to receive the contact information of the inspector for your area.

Report a Violation at a CFATS Facility: You can report a violation at a CFATS Facility by contacting the CFATS Chemical Security Tip Line. Call 877-FYI-4DHS or email CFATSTIPS@hq.dhs.gov. For more information on whistleblower confidentiality and reporting a violation, visit www.dhs.gov/report-cfats-violation

New Publication

Tiering Fact Sheet: As DHS continues to ensure tiering changes are implemented seamlessly, we encourage you to look at the Tiering Fact Sheet on the [Knowledge Center](#) for more information.

Publications Coming Soon

Monthly Statistics Fact Sheet: Statistics about CFATS activities—authorization inspections, approved security plans, and compliance inspections—will soon be available on the [Knowledge Center](#).

Flyer: Report A CFATS Violation: Do you think a CFATS-related violation may have occurred at a facility? Coming soon to the [Knowledge Center](#), this flyer will soon be available for you to learn more about what constitutes a violation and how to anonymously report one.

Compliance Corner: Your Annual SSP Audit

The CFATS regulation requires covered chemical facilities to conduct an audit of its compliance with its Site Security Plan or Alternative Security Program (SSP/ASP) on a yearly basis. The annual audit is a critical piece of ensuring facilities are keeping their chemicals of interest out of harmful hands and implementing security measures for each applicable risk-based performance standards. Audits may cover topics, such as:

- Verification of Top-Screen and SVA data, including ensuring COI information is current;
- Confirmation of all CSAT user roles;
- Confirmation of all existing and planned measures from the SSP/ASP; and
- Review of current policies, procedures, training, etc.

The first audit must be completed within 12 months of the SSP/ASP approval and annually thereafter. For questions about your annual audit, contact your Chemical Security Inspector or Compliance Case Manager.